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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/529,968	03/31/2005	Christoph Weis	SMB-PT131 (PC 03 298 B US	6272
3624	7590	02/22/2008	EXAMINER	
VOLPE AND KOENIG, P.C. UNITED PLAZA, SUITE 1600 30 SOUTH 17TH STREET PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103			CERNOCH, STEVEN MICHAEL	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3752	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/529,968	Applicant(s) WEIS ET AL.	
	Examiner STEVEN CERNOCH	Art Unit 3752	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 8/26/2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 15-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 15-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 3/31/2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/31/2006</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 15-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Muchenberger et al. (US Pat No 5,769,326).

Regarding claim 15, Muchenberger et al. teaches a Sanitary outflow armature (Fig. 1, 1) comprising a liquid guide that opens into a fitting outlet, in an area of which a plumbing functional unit in the form of an insertion cartridge is provided (2), wherein an inner diameter of the liquid guide is adapted to the insertion cartridge at least in an opening area of the fitting outlet, and the insertion cartridge can be inserted into the fitting outlet from an opening side and is held removably therein (17).

With regard to claim 16, Muchenberger et al. teaches wherein the insertion cartridge is situated with at least a predominant part of a longitudinal extension thereof in the fitting outlet (Fig. 3, 2a).

In regards to claim 17, Muchenberger et al. teaches wherein the insertion cartridge is held in the fitting outlet by an intermediate holder that is sleeve-shaped (Fig. 2, 2).

Regarding claim 18, Muchenberger et al. teaches wherein an intermediate holder that can be placed into the fitting outlet from the opening side is held removably or non-removably in the fitting outlet (Fig. 2, 17).

With regard to claim 19, Muchenberger et al. teaches wherein the insertion cartridge or an intermediate holder can be inserted into the fitting outlet up to an insertion stop (Fig. 6, 8).

In regards to claim 20, Muchenberger et al. teaches wherein an intermediate holder is held in the fitting outlet by at least one of a glued, clamped, locking, and screw connection, and/or by at least one of pressing, clutching, and wedging (Fig. 2, 17).

Regarding claim 21, Muchenberger et al. teaches wherein an intermediate holder is sealed peripherally against an inner peripheral wall of the fitting outlet (Fig. 2, 18).

With regard to claim 22, Muchenberger et al. teaches wherein the insertion cartridge is held in the fitting outlet or in an intermediate holder by a clamped, locking, or screw connection (Fig. 2, 17).

In regards to claim 23, Muchenberger et al. teaches wherein the insertion cartridge is sealed against an intermediate holder or against an inner peripheral wall of the fitting outlet (Fig. 2, 18).

Regarding claim 24, Muchenberger et al. teaches wherein at least one annular seal is provided for a seal between the insertion cartridge and/or an intermediate holder on the one hand and the Sanitary outflow armature on the other hand (Fig. 2, 18).

With regard to claim 25, Muchenberger et al. teaches wherein the insertion cartridge or the intermediate holder has an outer thread that can be screwed

into an inner thread in the fitting outlet (Fig. 2, 17), and the outer thread and the inner thread are dimensioned and situated such that when the insertion cartridge and/or the intermediate holder are screwed onto one another, the threads initially engage one another in a relative position of the Sanitary outflow armature on the one hand and the insertion cartridge and/or intermediate holder on the other hand in which the annular seal provided on an outer periphery of the insertion cartridge or of the intermediate holder does not yet make frictional contact with the Sanitary outflow armature.

In regards to claim 26, Muchenberger et al. teaches wherein the insertion cartridge comprises a multi-part cartridge housing (Fig. 1, 3), and a clamping, locking, and/or screw connection is provided on a housing part of the cartridge housing (Fig. 2, 17), situated at a flow outlet side, for the fastening of the cartridge housing in the fitting outlet.

Regarding claim 27, Muchenberger et al. teaches wherein the cartridge housing of the insertion cartridge and/or of an intermediate holder has a contoured outer periphery and/or a contoured outflow end surface, constructed as a tool engagement surface for an insertion tool (Fig. 5, 19).

With regard to claim 28, Muchenberger et al. teaches wherein the outflow end surface of the cartridge housing of the insertion cartridge and/or of the intermediate holder has a contouring made up of projections and recesses, such that the recesses of the insertion cartridge held in the Sanitary outflow armature and/or of the intermediate holder act as a tool engagement surface for the projections of another cartridge housing that can be used as an insertion tool, and/or of another intermediate holder (Fig. 5, 19).

In regards to claim 29, Muchenberger et al. teaches wherein the insertion cartridge and/or an intermediate holder are connected in one piece with at least one seal that forms a seal between the insertion cartridge and/or the intermediate holder on the one hand and the Sanitary outflow armature on the other hand (Fig. 3, 18).

Regarding claim 30, Muchenberger et al. teaches wherein the seal, and the component of the insertion cartridge and/or of the intermediate holder connected in one piece with the seal, are made of the same material, at which point, the art of record does not indicate to the contrary therefore examiner concludes they are the same material.

With regard to claim 31, Muchenberger et al. teaches wherein at least one of the outflow-side final edge area of the insertion cartridge and of an intermediate holder is fashioned as a sealing profile (Fig. 4, 19).

In regards to claim 32, Muchenberger et al. teaches wherein the sealing profile has at least one surface seal (Fig. 3, 18) and at least one lip seal (Fig. 19).

Regarding claim 33, Muchenberger et al. teaches wherein the insertion cartridge and/or the intermediate holder has at a flow inlet side an insertion stop that in its position of use limits a deformation of the sealing profile (Fig. 1, 3).

With regard to claim 34, Muchenberger et al. teaches wherein the sealing profile has at least one seal having a sealing profile base that is formed as an insertion stop (Fig. 2, 18).

In regards to claim 35, Muchenberger et al. teaches wherein the insertion stop is situated adjacent to the sealing profile in a radial direction (Fig. 2, 18).

Regarding claim 36, Muchenberger et al. teaches wherein at least one of the sealing profile and the insertion stop work together with a counterstop on an inner periphery of the Sanitary outflow armature that limits the inner diameter of the liquid guide (Fig. 2, 17 and 18).

With regard to claim 37, Muchenberger et al. teaches wherein the sealing profile has at least one annular peripheral sealing lip (Fig. 1, 3).

In regards to claim 38, Muchenberger et al. teaches wherein the sealing profile has at least two annular peripheral sealing lips that become effective one after the other with increasing insertion pressure that acts on the insertion cartridge and/or on the intermediate holder (Fig. 1, 3 and Fig. 2, 18).

Regarding claim 39, Muchenberger et al. teaches wherein the sealing lips have different heights (Fig. 1, 3 and Fig. 2, 18).

With regard to claim 40, Muchenberger et al. teaches wherein the sealing lips have stepped heights (Fig. 1, 3 and Fig. 2, 18).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to STEVEN CERNOCH whose telephone number is (571)270-3540. The examiner can normally be reached on IFP.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin Shaver can be reached on (571)272-4720. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3754

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/S. C./
Examiner, Art Unit 3752

/Kevin P. Shaver/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3754